DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to an amendment filed 17 March 2008 in which claims 1 and 5 were amended. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Drawings

1. Replacement drawings were received on 17 March 2008. These drawings are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-11 are allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach and/or suggest "wherein the plural surface angles comprise a distribution of facet angles which vary on a scale larger than a diffraction limit, but smaller than a sub-pixel spacing, the distribution configured to provide an effect observed as one of a diffuser with respect to the spacing of sub-pixels, wherein the effective optical interface acts overall as the diffuser, further having an angular diffusion profile with a vertical scattering component of less than one percent (1%) and a horizontal scattering component of approximately ten percent (10%)" as set forth in the claimed combination.

Shinomiya, JP 06-265891 A, discloses in fig. 3 an electrically controllable light diffuser comprising: an optical medium (3) and an electro-optic medium (4) arranged with an effective optical interface between a first surface of the optical medium and a first surface of the electro-

optic medium and transparent electrodes (5) arranged for providing an electric field across the electro-optic medium so as to allow control of the refractive index of the electro-optic medium by application or non-application of an electric field across the electro-optic medium (see at least the abstract), wherein one of the first surface of the optical medium and the first surface of the electro-optic medium is structured with a surface profile (at 3a), the surface profile comprising plural surface angles such that (i) when the refractive index of the electro-optic medium is controlled by application or non-application of an electric field to be substantially equal to the refractive index of the optical medium there is substantially no refraction arising from the effective optical interface between the first surface of the optical medium and the first surface of the electro-optic medium (fig. 3, bottom half of figure; also see section [0044] of supplied machine translation) and such that (ii) when the refractive index of the electro-optic medium is controlled by application or non-application of an electric field to be different from the refractive index of the optical medium refraction does take place at the effective optical interface between the first surface of the optical medium and the first surface of the electro-optic medium and, by virtue of there being plural surface angles, the refraction directs light to a corresponding plurality of angles thereby providing a diffusion effect (fig. 3, top half of figure; also see section [0044] of supplied machine translation) but does not have wherein the plural surface angles comprise a distribution of facet angles which vary on a scale larger than a diffraction limit, but smaller than a sub-pixel spacing, the distribution configured to provide an effect observed as one of a diffuser with respect to the spacing of sub-pixels, wherein the effective optical interface acts overall as the diffuser, further having an angular diffusion profile with a vertical scattering component of

less than one percent (1%) and a horizontal scattering component of approximately ten percent (10%) as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEE FINEMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-2313. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone B. Allen can be reached on (571) 272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lee Fineman/
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2872
11 June 2008